



Maricopa County Air Quality Department

NEWS RELEASE

June 8, 2005

Community & Media
Relations Manager
Maricopa County Air Quality
1001 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
(602) 506-6713, desk
(602) 201-6092, pgr.

Contact: Holly Ward: 602-506-6713/desk * 602-201-6092/pager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maricopa County One Step Closer to Clean Air Regulation

On June 8, 2005 the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to pass significant revisions to Rule 316 Nonmetallic Mineral Processing. The rule covers dust emissions that come from the rock products industry. That industry includes sand and gravel operations as well as concrete, asphalt, salt mine and brick operations.

"This is the air we all breathe," said Chairman Max Wilson, District 4. "There was no question we all had to support this step toward improving air quality for us and for future generations."

Rule 316 has been in existence since 1993. Revisions were made to the rule first in 1999, then again today. There are several additional provisions in today's revision. Most of them address dust emission limitations and dust control measures.

"Today's action gives both industry and regulators strict guidelines to follow in order to reduce the amount of dust polluting our air," states Maricopa County Air Quality Director Bob Kard. "That translates to cleaner air for you and me."

How will residents notice changes resulting from today's rule revision?

You may see improvement to plant sites in order to reduce dust in the air.

Improvement measures may include:

- Pavement on dirt road(s) on plant sites
- Gravel beds or rumble grates at plant site exits
- Street sweepers on plant sites
- Cleaner truck wheels on and off plant sites

Dust control is a big part of the air quality department's role in air quality regulation and enforcement. Dust, or particulate matter, is about a seventh the size of a human hair and can be harmful to your health. Small particles can lodge deep into the lungs and create respiratory problems. Today's approval of the Rule 316 revisions is significant when it comes to improving the air quality in Maricopa County.

For a copy of the rule revision, visit our website:

<http://www.maricopa.gov/aq/RULES/docs/316-0506.pdf>

####

The Maricopa County Air Quality Department is a regulatory agency whose goal is to ensure clean air standards are upheld for the residents and visitors of Maricopa County. The department was created in November 2004, branching off from Maricopa County's Environmental Services. The establishment of the Air Quality Department demonstrates the solid commitment Maricopa County has to cleaning up the air we breathe. We are dedicated to achieving the national ambient air quality standards put forth by the EPA through the Clean Air Act.